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PANAMA.

Reports from Colon—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Removal of yellow fever case from steamship Seguranca—Yellow fever situation—Reported plague case—Vital statistics for month of May, 1905—Report of sanitary conditions Colon and Cristobal, May, 1905.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Mohr reports, June 27 and 28, as follows:

During the week ended June 24, 1905, the following vessels cleared for ports in the United States and were granted bills of health:

British steamship *Royal Exchange* for Mobile, June 20, with 23 crew and no passengers; fumigated.

Norwegian steamship *Ellis* for New Orleans, via Bocas del Toro, June 21, with 33 crew and no passengers; fumigated.

American steamship *Seguranca* for New York, June 23, with 73 crew and 144 passengers.

Two passengers, former employees of the Canal Commission, on the steamship *Seguranca* were found with a temperature of 102° F. just prior to sailing, and were removed to the Colon Hospital for observation. One of these cases proved to be a typical case of yellow fever. This patient had come from Culebra, and had stopped several days at a hotel in Colon.

Official report on vital statistics for the month of May, and sanitary report of Colon for the week ended June 26, 1905.

A striking feature of the mortality report for May is the large number of deaths under the heading of ill-defined diseases. The cases of teething fever, eruptive fever, fever, bilious fever, many of them occurring among children, are, in my opinion, suspicious, and they have apparently not been investigated. Another feature of interest is the large number of deaths occurring among children under 5 years of age.

New cases of yellow fever on the Isthmus have been reported as follows, since June 23: Panama, 6; Paraiso, 1; Colon, 4. Deaths from yellow fever during this period: In Panama, 3; in Colon, 1.

Since Saturday, June 24, there have been rumors of a death from bubonic plague in the person of a negro laborer on the dock at La Boca, near Panama, to which I paid little heed in the absence of official information. On Sunday I was told unofficially that a bacteriological examination had confirmed the diagnosis. Not having been officially notified I telegraphed to the chief sanitary officer, as follows:

> Please inform immediately if report of case of plague is official,

to which I received the following reply:

> The case is not officially reported as plague. Board will probably report on the case to-morrow and you will be informed.

On Tuesday morning, the 27th, the Panama Star and Herald published a report of the case and a quarantine regulation issued by the chief sanitary officer and the governor of the Canal Zone. Although I was left officially in doubt, in the face of such information I decided to cable to the Bureau as follows:

> There has been a death from suspected bubonic plague at Panama. Can learn nothing respecting officially.